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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Registration for military service in Czechoslovakia occurs at the age of 19. In the fall of each year, the MNV (Mestsky Narodni Vybor - Local National Council) collects information on all males who are 19 years old or who will have reached that age during the calendar year. This information is sent to the ONV (Okresni Narodni Vybor - Rayon National Council) which prepares an alphabetical list of all 19 year old males who reside in the towns and villages of the particular rayon. Copies of this list then are sent to the KVV (Krajske Vojenske Velitelstvi - Regional Military Headquarters).

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The KVV compiles complete lists of men to be inducted in the various localities and forwards these lists to the MNV and the ONV. Action on these lists is taken during February, March and April of the following year. The lists then are divided into three classes: first class, to include 20 year olds, second, to include 21 year olds and third, to include 22 year olds. The 22 year olds are included on the lists since they probably had received a deferment the previous year. The draftee is first notified by a list which is posted at the Town Hall. He is called by the mayor or his representative and personally notified of his impending induction and told that he will be called to appear before a Recruitment Committee. He also signs a certificate acknowledging his notification.

2. The induction process is started at the age of 20. A Recruitment Committee meets in February, March or April. This committee is composed of the following members: a chairman, who is an officer of the Military Replacement Service; one doctor who is an officer in the Medical Corps; five officers from the Administrative and Personnel Branch of the Army, and one officer from the Political Branch of the Army. When the draftee is summoned to appear before this committee, he is given a physical examination by the medical officer and a variety of tests by the administrative and personnel officer to determine his qualifications and special technical abilities. The political officer interviews the draftee and obtains his complete personal history, including that of his parents and relatives, in order to determine his political reliability.
3. The political officer plays a very important part in the screening of the draftee. He is a member of the KSC (Communist Party of Czechoslovakia) and the STB (Statnitajna bezpecnost - State Security Police). After a careful study of the draftee's political reliability, the political officer and a member of the MNV make recommendations as to his unit assignment. Those draftees who fall into the following categories are not assigned to the Air Force, the Signal Corps, the Tank Corps or other technical branches:
 - (a) Draftees whose parents or relatives are not members of the KSC
 - (b) Draftees whose parents or relatives have expressed opinions not in accord with the regime
 - (c) Draftees whose parents or relatives reside in western countries because they are opposed to communism
 - (d) Draftees whose parents or relatives have been deprived of property or have undergone investigations because of their unreliability
4. The data obtained by the Recruitment Committee, including the recommendations of the political officer, is forwarded to the MNO (Ministerstvo Narodni Obrany - Ministry of National Defense) where it is studied from May through August. Final lists are prepared at the MNO. The majority of selections are made from the second class (21 year olds) and from the third class (22 year olds), whose deferments have expired. If the quotas cannot be filled from these two classes, they are filled from the first class (20 year olds).

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The actual induction of the draftee takes place in the fall of the year. The induction date this year was to have been on 21 Oct 1951, which is later than usual. I heard that the date was changed in order to fit the Soviet pattern of inductions.

5. Prior to October 1950, when the Military Service Law was changed, deferments were granted for the following reasons:
 - (a) When an individual had a mild form of disease or an illness which could be cured
 - (b) When an individual was immature for his age (deferred for one year)
 - (c) When an individual was receiving a technical education which would be an advantage to the service when he eventually entered
 - (d) When an individual was the sole support of his family, including brothers, sisters, ill parents, etc
 - (e) When an individual was married with one child (released after six months)
 - (f) When an individual was married and had two children. (If a man had one child and his wife bore another while he was in the service, he immediately was released)
6. After the Military Service Law was changed, deferments were granted for the following reasons:
 - (a) When an individual was seriously ill
 - (b) When an individual was ill at the time of call but who could be cured in time (deferred one year)
 - (c) When an individual was physically immature, (deferred one year to permit physical development)
 - (d) When an individual was studying at a technical school
 - (e) When married men were sole supporters of their families (served 12 months)
7. A very few students in Czechoslovakia volunteer for service at the age of 17. Some youths also enter the SDD (Skola Dostojnickeho Dorostu - Officers School for Youths) at the age of 17; upon entrance they are considered as enlisted men. If students are not retained for further education, then they enter the service at 18 or 19.
8. [redacted] the classes of 1928 and 1929 were the oldest serving in the Czech Army. I heard from officers stationed at the Quartermaster School in Zilina who had access to mobilization data, that the class of 1928 was to be demobilized in September 1951. I also heard from the same sources that about 55,000 or 65,000 of the class of 1930 were to be drafted on 1 Nov 51. From information I obtained by reading circulars and bulletins of the Ministry of National Defense I estimate that only five to eight percent of the latter class will be rejected. A part of the class of 1931 was also to be mobilized. I believe that with this partial

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mobilization of the class of 1931, only the best qualified men will be taken, and they will be assigned to the Air Force, Security and other specialized services. According to persons who lived in my community, stricter rules have been adopted for induction this year. In the spring of 1950 I read also in Ministry of National Defense circulars that physicians were advised to overlook minor physical defects.

9. The required term of service in the CSR Army now is two years for privates, NCO's and junior lieutenants; the same period of service is required in the Air Force. I heard rumors that the period of duty is to be extended to three years to correspond to that of the Soviet Army; [redacted] there was no indication that a change had taken place or was to take place in the near future. There are however, provisions for extending the length of service of specialists. Specialists are offered promotions, sometimes to two grades higher. An individual who refused such an offer would be branded as politically unreliable and disloyal. This method was often used to keep NCO's in the service. I know of an NCO who was commissioned a junior lieutenant at the end of his period of service, and then was offered the rank of senior lieutenant as an inducement to remain in the service. This type of recruitment was usually done to secure officers for political service, research, engineering or other specialized services.
10. Members of the enlisted reserve are required to serve 21 days annually; reserve officers must serve 28 days. Reserve training in the summer of 1951 was on a smaller scale than in 1950. This information applies only to the Zilina Military District and Slovakia; I have no information about reserve training in Bohemia. I know of no attempts to test out the mobilization machinery. No reservists were retained beyond the period of their annual short-term training, except in cases in which they were offered advancement in a particular field.
11. Prior to World War II and the present Communist Regime, Czechs were divided 50/50 on the subject of military service. I would estimate that about 50% objected to military training and the other 50% were non-committal. Since the Communists took over the country, the percentage opposed to military training was increased to about 80%. This increase is due to various reasons. Many people have lost property and lost good positions as a result of the regime. They have a general feeling that they have been cheated by the Communists, early promises never having materialized. There is a feeling of apathy and the people believe that they have nothing to fight for. The remaining 20% include those who favor military service and hold good party positions or those who are rather non-committal. The draftees are usually a part of the 80% who do not favor military service. They are dissatisfied with army life and resent the strenuous training. They dislike especially the compulsory political indoctrination to which they are subjected each evening after a hard day of training. As a result, the morale of the draftees is very low. Although it is forbidden to communicate grievances outside camp, information about the discontent does leak out to the population.

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